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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/651,669	08/30/2000	Loren L Roy	17761-000950US	2031

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EXAMINER

PEFFLEY, MICHAEL F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3739	

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2003

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/651,669	Applicant(s) ROY ET AL. <i>MF</i>
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael Peffley	3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2003 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 19-27 and 35-48 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 47 and 48 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 19-22, 24-27, 35-39 and 42-46 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 23, 40 and 41 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 24, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 19-22, 24-27, 35-39 and 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eggers et al ('581).

Eggers et al disclose an electrosurgical device for the treatment of uterine tissue (col. 3, lines 30-35; col. 5). The device includes a thin, flat, rigid surface for contacting tissue, and a plurality of bipolar electrode pairs for delivering energy to tissue (Figure 25A). Underwood et al further disclose a conduit for the delivery of a fluid. Underwood et al disclose that the length of the treatment section may be between 2 and 20mm, and the width in a range from 2 to 10 mm (col. 23, lines 1-22). Also, the device has a maximum height of 4.0mm and preferably less than 1mm. As such, the diameters of the individual electrodes (416) must be less than these values and fall within the range of radius of curvature now set forth in the claims. It is noted that the electrodes (416) protrude from the probe and have a rounded surface as clearly seen in Figure 25A. The electrodes are independently controlled such that peripheral electrodes may be energized independently.

It is noted that the claims recite many intended use limitations. With regard to the Eggers et al system, the examiner maintains that the use of the Eggers et al device for ablation is immaterial to the rejection, and it is pointed out that Eggers et al specifically disclose the device as also being used to contract or shrink tissue (col. 27, line 10). The Eggers et al device is inherently capable of performing the intended uses set forth in the claim language, and the claims fail to define structural limitations which define over the Eggers et al system.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 23, 40 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

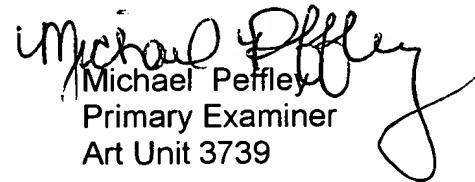
Claims 47 and 48 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Peffley whose telephone number is (703) 308-4305. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 6am-3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (703) 308-0994. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3590 for regular communications and (703) 305-3590 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.


Michael Peffley
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

mp
April 8, 2003